

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-05

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R 192044Z SEP 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224165

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY GUARD

REF: EMBASSY YAOUNDE 3094

1. FILES HERE INCLUDED RECORD OF CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN
AMBASSADOR HOFFACKER AND GURC OFFICIALS.

2. LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR HOFFACKER TO WM. BRADFORD
AF/EX OF OCTOBER 5, 1970 CONFIRMS MEANING OF "LOW
SILHOUETTE" FOR MARINE GUARDS IN YAOUNDE. "I HAD A MEET-
ING WITH PRESIDENTIAL AIDE PAUL BIYA, WHO SAID THAT PRESI-
DENT AHIDJO HAD CONCURRED IN OUR HAVING FIVE (5) 'LOW
SILHOUETTE' MARINES HERE, MEANING INTER ALIA NO UNIFORMS
OUTSIDE THE OFFICE AND NO ARMS VISIBLE IN THE EMBASSY....".

3. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE EMBASSY'S AIDE MEMOIRE
TO GURC ON JUNE 5, 1970 STATED THAT MARINES ARE ARMED AND
IN UNIFORM WITHIN THE EMBASSY AND THAT THEY ARE ON DUTY
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PRIMARILY AT NIGHT AND ON WEEKENDS. WHEN MARINES WERE

PUT ON 24 HR WATCH, I.E., DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS
THEIR VISIBILITY WAS INCREASED. THIS WAS DONE BECAUSE OF
A POSSIBLE TERRORIST THREAT.

4. NO INDICATIONS EXIST OF ANY DISCUSSION OF GRADUAL
ACQUIESCENCE TO SLIGHTLY RAISED PROFILE. HOWEVER, DIS-
CUSSIONS ALONG THIS LINE MIGHT BE TIED IN WITH THE NEED
TO RAISE THE SILHOUETTE AS A DETERENT TO POSSIBLE
TERRORIST THREAT, STILL MAINTAINING THE UNIFORM AND WEAPON
ONLY WITHIN THE RESIDENCE. KISSINGER

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